

From: Michael Skora
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 11:23pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Hello,

I would like to say that the proposed settlement seems to be lacking in many areas. See Dan Kegel's analysis of said (<http://www.kegel.com/remedy/letter.html>). Additionally and possibly more unsettling are the ramifications that Cringely brings up in his December 6th column (<http://www.pbs.org/cringely/pulpit/pulpit20011206.html>), specifically it is not guaranteed that free software organizations will have access to the necessary APIs for interoperability. Others have suggested that Microsoft may resort to bundling third party software or placing patents at key points to restrict access to important APIs.

Basically, I trust Microsoft less than I trust a floppy disk to keep my data safe, which is to say not at all. Throughout the proceedings and settlement they have exhibited not only a willingness to lie and cheat, but an arrogance and nastiness flaunted in the face of the laws and system. Microsoft needs to be taught a lesson they will not soon forget (certainly not as quickly as they forgot the last "lesson"). It should be example to the companies that seek to follow in their footsteps, an example that our monopoly laws are here for the public good and we will not allow the public good to be harmed for any amount of lobbying and campaign contributions.

Sincerely,
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:"Those who desire to give up Freedom in order to gain Security,
: will not have, nor do they deserve, either one." -- Thomas Jefferson

:"Those who would give up essential liberty, to purchase a little
: temporary safety, deserve neither liberty nor safety."

: -- Benjamin Franklin, Historical Review of Pennsylvania, 1759